who has been designated to handle disputes under the Railway Labor Act, or by the chief executive of the labor organization, whichever party files the application. These applications, after preliminary investigation in the Board's offices, are given docket number in series "A" and the cases are assigned for mediation to Board members or to mediators on the Board's staff.

[11 FR 177A-923, Sept. 11, 1946. Redesignated at 13 FR 8740, Dec. 30, 1948, as amended at 64 FR 40287, July 26, 1999]

§ 1203.2 Investigation of representation disputes.

Applications for the services of the National Mediation Board under section 2, ninth, of the Railway Labor Act to investigate representation disputes among carriers' employees may be made on printed forms NMB-3, copies of which may be secured from the Board's Representation and Legal Department or on the Internet at www.nmb.gov. Such applications and all correspondence connected therewith should be filed in duplicate and the applications should be accompanied by signed authorization cards from the employees composing the craft or class involved in the dispute. The applications should show specifically the name or description of the craft of class of employees involved, the name of the invoking organization, the name of the organization currently representing the employees, if any, and the estimated number of employees in each craft or class involved. The applications should be signed by the chief executive of the invoking organization, or other authorized officer of the organization. These disputes are given docket numbers in series "R".

 $[43\ {\rm FR}\ 30053,\ {\rm July}\ 13,\ 1978,\ {\rm as}\ {\rm amended}\ {\rm at}\ 64\ {\rm FR}\ 40287,\ {\rm July}\ 26,\ 1999]$

§ 1203.3 Interpretation of mediation agreements.

(a) Applications may be filed with the Board's Chief of Staff under section 5, Second, of the Railway Labor Act, for the interpretation of agreements reached in mediation under section 5, First. Such applications may be made by letter from either party to the mediation agreement stating the specific question on which an interpretation is desired.

(b) This function of the National Mediation Board is not intended to conflict with the provisions of section 3 of the Railway Labor Act. Providing for interpretation of agreements by the National Railroad Adjustment Board. Many complete working agreements are revised with the aid of the Board's mediating services, and it has been the Board's policy that disputes involving the interpretation or application of such agreements should be handled by the Adjustment Board. Under this section of the law the Board when called upon may only consider and render an interpretation on the specific terms of an agreement actually signed in mediation, and not for matters incident or corollary thereto.

[11 FR 177A-923, Sept. 11, 1946. Redesignated at 13 FR 8740, Dec. 30, 1948, as amended at 64 FR 40287, July 26, 1999]

PART 1204—LABOR CONTRACTS

Sec.

1204.1 Making and maintaining contracts.

1204.2 Arbitrary changing of contracts.

1204.3 Filing of contracts.

AUTHORITY: 44 Stat. 577, as amended; 45 U.S.C. 151-163.

SOURCE: 11 FR 177A-924, Sept. 11, 1946, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 13 FR 8740, Dec. 30, 1948.

§ 1204.1 Making and maintaining contracts.

It is the duty of all carriers, their officers, agents, and employees to exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain contracts covering rates of pay, rules, and working conditions.

§1204.2 Arbitrary changing of contracts.

No carrier, its officers, or agents shall change the rates of pay, rules, or working conditons of its employees, as a class as embodied in agreements except in the manner prescribed in such agreements or in section 6 of the Railway Labor Act.

§1204.3 Filing of contracts.

Section 5, Third, (e) of the Railway Labor Act requires all carriers to file with the National Mediation Board